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Agenda item 62 (b)
New Partnership for Africa's development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

South Africa:* draft resolution

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 and subsequent annual resolutions, including resolutions 67/293 of 24 July 2013 and 68/278 of 16 June 2014, as well as its resolutions 66/286 of 23 July 2012, 67/294 of 15 August 2013 and 68/301 of 17 July 2014 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 63/310 of 14 September 2009, 65/274 of 18 April 2011 and 67/302 of 16 September 2013 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the role of the Council in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, 2195 (2014) of 19 December 2014 on threats to international peace and security, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

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2005, 2033 (2012) of 12 January 2012 and 2167 (2014) of 28 July 2014, as well as the statement by the President of the Security Council of 16 December 2014[2] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting on 22 September 2008,[4]

Recalling the 2012 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[5] and recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The future we want",[6]

Recalling further its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012 establishing a monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development,

Reaffirming the political declaration on the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held on 25 April 2013,[7]

Recalling the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[8]

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for the provision of support by the international community and the United Nations, taking into account the responsibilities of the Organization in this regard according to the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that, despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to continue developing African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

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[2] S/PRST/2014/27.
[3] Resolution 60/1.
[4] Resolution 63/1.
[5] Resolution 65/1.
[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[7] Resolution 67/259.
[8] Resolution 68/6.

Welcoming the continuing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to settle conflicts and promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law and constitutional order in Africa,

Reaffirming the commitment to ensure that there shall be no tolerance for impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity or for violations of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights law, and that such violations shall be properly investigated and appropriately sanctioned, including by bringing the perpetrators of any crimes to justice, through national mechanisms or, where appropriate, regional or international mechanisms, in accordance with international law, and for that purpose encouraging States to strengthen national judicial systems and institutions,

Underscoring the importance of taking into account lessons learned from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and condemning the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

Acknowledging that the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations requires that national Governments and international partners continue to develop coordinated approaches tailored to the peacebuilding needs and challenges faced by those countries,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, within its existing mandate and in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development, taking into consideration national priorities and the principle of national ownership, and recognizing the importance of the comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2015 for strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission and enabling it to realize its full potential, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/7 and Security Council resolution 1947 (2010), both of 29 October 2010, stressing in this regard the need to consolidate the regional dimensions of the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission in Africa and to build on the outcome report of the Cairo regional workshop held in November 2014,[9] which provides perspectives from Africa on the way forward towards enhancing regional aspects of peacebuilding in the 2015 review,

Encouraging the United Nations system, the African Union and subregional organizations to enhance their interaction with civil society, including women's and youth associations, academia and research institutions on issues relevant to the promotion of peace, security and sustainable development in Africa, and welcoming

[9] See A/69/654-S/2014/882.

the ongoing efforts in this regard, including by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Office to the African Union to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, particularly in the areas of peace, security and political and humanitarian affairs, and reaffirming the need to ensure coordination and increase cost-effectiveness among relevant entities of the United Nations system involved in the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;[10]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries, the African Union and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development, calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach among national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and relevant partners in addressing those challenges, with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa, and in this regard recognizes the important role played by civil society organizations, including women's organizations;

3. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the African leaders to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African renaissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

4. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063, as a strategic vision and an action plan for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, acknowledges the emphasis on peace and security as critical enablers for sustainable development in the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063, and reaffirms its full support for the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063;

5. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the high-level panel discussion held on 13 October 2014 on the theme "The Africa we want: support of the United Nations system to the African Union's Agenda 2063" and the briefing by African regional economic communities held on 1 October 2014 on "The role of Africa's regional economic communities in consolidating peace, security, governance and development in the context of Agenda 2063", organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa with the participation of the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordination Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism, regional economic communities and the United Nations system;

6. *Notes* the adoption of the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration by African leaders in May 2013, in which they pledged "to end all wars in Africa by

[10] A/69/162-S/2014/542.

2020" and "achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa", expresses its readiness to contribute, and calls upon all, in particular relevant United Nations entities, to help to achieve this goal, including by considering defining a concrete five-year actionable plan in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2020;

7. *Also notes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union, in collaboration with regional economic communities and development partners, including the United Nations system, to develop an action plan towards implementing the decision of the 2013 Solemn Declaration that the continent would "silence the guns by 2020", and calls upon Member States and the United Nations system to intensify their support and cooperation with African countries, the African Union and the African regional economic communities and relevant regional mechanisms towards the timely realization of the goal of "silencing the guns by 2020";

8. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as the ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, operationalize the African Standby Force, establish the African capacity for immediate response to crises and enhance mediation capacity and preventive diplomacy, including through the Panel of the Wise;

9. *Recognizes* the growing and emerging challenges and risks facing United Nations peace operations, and takes note of the establishment of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to conduct a comprehensive assessment and submit recommendations to the General Assembly in 2015 for consideration and appropriate action;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the continental early warning system, including its subregional components, as well as the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to assist post-conflict countries, at their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development and to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission;

12. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, the international community and all partners to support the efforts of African countries to promote political, social and economic inclusion;

13. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

14. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on

the rights of women and children, into the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

16. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

17. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the joint visit of the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank to the countries of the Horn of Africa in October 2014, during which a new development initiative to support regional peace and development in the Horn of Africa was launched, and the joint visit to the countries of the Great Lakes region of Africa from 22 to 24 May 2013 and the financial pledge announced by the World Bank during the visit in support of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, as well as the joint visit of the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the World Bank, the President of the African Development Bank and the European Union Commissioner for Development to the Sahel region from 4 to 7 November 2013, during which financial pledges were made to support the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and calls for the fulfilment of all the pledges made;

18. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006[11] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union,[12] underlines the importance of accelerating the implementation of the programme, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme in all its aspects, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in this regard;

19. *Welcomes* the United Nations-African Union joint decision during the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, held in Abuja in March 2014, to establish a working group to start formulating a successor programme to the 2006 United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme as an important contribution towards conflict prevention, management and resolution on the African continent that will also reflect the support of the United Nations to Agenda 2063, and reiterates the importance of greater engagement with the regional economic communities in formulating the successor programme;

20. *Reaffirms* the importance of the role of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in ensuring greater coherence and coordination of United Nations system support to Africa, including support to the African Union, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution, human rights, governance and the rule of law, and post-conflict reconstruction and development;

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[11] A/61/630, annex.

[12] A/65/716-S/2011/54.

21. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as transnational organized crime, disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

22. *Expresses grave concern* about the growing threat posed by terrorism to the peace, security and social and economic development of Africa, and encourages the United Nations to work with African countries, the African Union and the regional economic communities to support the development and implementation of regional counter-terrorism action plans;

23. *Takes note* of the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council Summit on countering violent extremism and terrorism, held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014, and calls on United Nations counter-terrorism entities, within existing mandates, and Member States to provide assistance and capacity-building towards Africa's efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism;

24. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children, including sexual violence, continues and may increase even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa, including more systematic monitoring and reporting, notes the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of relevant resolutions, and encourages the entities that compose United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in the implementation of her mandate, including in Africa;

25. *Also notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other violations against children, stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts and for ensuring that the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts are integrated into all peace processes, also stresses the need for post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and encourages the relevant parts of the United Nations system to assist in the implementation of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, including in Africa;

26. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment as well as facilitating the enhanced participation of youth in decision-making processes, with a view to addressing social, political and economic challenges;

27. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, and in this regard recognizes the importance of the 2015 high-level review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000);

28. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls in this regard the adoption and entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the African Union Gender Policy and the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development, as well as the Framework for Cooperation on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations in Africa signed by the African Union Commission and the United Nations, stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa for strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention on the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all relevant parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

29. *Takes note* of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which entered into force on 6 December 2012, and the Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, adopted on 23 October 2009;

30. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection in Africa and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support for efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement and bringing about the voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return and reintegration of those populations, and calls upon the international community, including Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

31. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the African Peer Review Mechanism since its inception in improving governance and supporting socioeconomic development in African countries, and recalls in this regard the high-level panel discussion held on 21 October 2013 on Africa's innovation in governance through 10 years of the African Peer Review Mechanism, organized during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism;

32. *Takes note* of the decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its summit in June 2014 on the integration of the African Peer Review Mechanism into the African Union structures, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to provide voluntary substantial financial and capacity-building support to the Mechanism to advance its activities;

33. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages more African countries to participate in this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries and regional and subregional organizations, upon their request, in their ongoing efforts to promote democracy, constitutional order and the rule of law, to enhance good governance and to continue to fight against impunity, as well as in the holding of free, fair, inclusive and transparent elections;

34. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration;

35. *Expresses deep concern* about the potential reversal, due to the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa, of the gains made by affected countries in peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure in recent years, welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, the first-ever United Nations health emergency mission, as well as all national, regional and international efforts aimed at ending the crisis, and reaffirms the important role of regional and subregional organizations in this regard, in particular the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States;

36. *Calls upon* all Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and the United Nations system to provide their full support to African countries affected by the Ebola outbreak to enhance the capacity and resilience of their health systems to address health-related crises and support sustained economic and social recovery;

37. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites Member States, to assist African countries emerging from conflict, upon their request as appropriate, in their efforts to build national capacities, including through national security sector reform strategies, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, the provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

38. *Takes note* of the African Union policy framework on security sector reform adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its summit in January 2013, welcomes the support rendered by the United Nations and development partners in the formulation of the policy framework, and calls upon the international community, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the efforts towards its implementation;

39. *Urges* continued support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

40. *Recognizes* the need for African countries to make continued efforts to create enabling environments for inclusive growth in support of sustainable development and for the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support those development efforts by African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

41. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States, bilateral and multilateral partners and new partners, to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the political

declaration on Africa's development needs,[4] as well as the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[13]

42. *Encourages* African Governments to strengthen structures and policies in order to create an environment conducive to the promotion of inclusive economic growth and to attracting foreign direct investment, and to promote socioeconomic development and social justice, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist the African countries concerned, at their request, by enhancing their capacity to devise and improve their national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and in this regard invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance and by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries, in conformity with international law;

43. *Recalls* relevant resolutions on the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations or arrangements, and encourages coordination and cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and regional economic communities in advocacy and in the mobilization of the support of the international community for African countries and towards the priorities of their continental and regional institutions;

44. *Notes* the completion of the review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General,[14] and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, policy proposals on issues identified in his report, including enhancing cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, and promoting socioeconomic development, good governance, the rule of law and human rights;

45. *Takes note* of the recommendations presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on possible ways to strengthen the interdepartmental task force on African affairs,[15] including through enhancing joint advocacy for international support to Africa, assisting in the mobilization of support for the implementation of relevant programmes and initiatives in Africa and championing approaches and solutions that take into account the enabling environment that peace and security provide for development, and reaffirms the need to ensure further coherence and an integrated approach for United Nations support to Africa, including in following up on the implementation of all global summit and conference outcomes related to Africa;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the General Assembly on an annual basis on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system.

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[13] A/57/304, annex.

[14] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

[15] See A/67/205/Add.1-S/2012/715/Add.1.

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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

South Africa:* draft resolution

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and resolutions 58/233 of 23 December 2003, 59/254 of 23 December 2004, 60/222 of 23 December 2005, 61/229 of 22 December 2006, 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012, 67/294 of 15 August 2013 and 68/301 of 17 July 2014 entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support",

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] including the recognition of the need to meet the special needs of Africa, and recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Recalling the political declaration on Africa's development needs, adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,[2]

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[3] including the recognition that more attention should be given to Africa, especially to those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] Resolution 63/1.

[3] Resolution 65/1.

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Recalling further that significant challenges remain in achieving sustainable development in Africa, as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4] including the importance of fulfilling all commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012, by which it established a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development, and taking note of the first biennial report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development,[5]

Recalling also the holding of the high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa's development objectives, including those of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, on 17 July 2014,

Stressing that addressing Africa's special development needs should be given due attention in the post 2015 development agenda, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[6]

Expressing concern about the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa and reiterating its solidarity with the highly affected countries in West Africa,

Reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the twelfth consolidated report of the Secretary-General[7] and the first biennial report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development;[8]

2. *Reaffirms its full support* for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] and the continent's new development framework, the African Union Agenda 2063;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the political declaration on Africa's development needs,[2] as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted as the outcome document of the Follow-up

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[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] A/69/163.

[6] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] A/69/161.

[8] A/69/163.

[9] A/57/304, annex.

International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;[10]

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of the New Partnership as well as regional and international support for the New Partnership, while acknowledging that much needs to be done in its implementation;

5. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS on 10 June 2011,[11] and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free Africa by addressing the needs of all, in particular the needs of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to scale up significantly efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

6. *Also takes note* of the road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, from 2012 to 2015, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with other international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the African Union road map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

7. *Recognizes* that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world, in particular the African continent, and serious challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Also recognizes* the profound socio-economic impact of the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa, including on the capacity to provide basic services and economic activities, expresses deep concern about the potential reversal, due to the Ebola outbreak, of the gains made by the affected countries in development, peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic

[10] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[11] Resolution 65/277, annex.

infrastructure in recent years, and calls for effective measures to overcome these difficulties, particularly in the most affected countries;

9. *Welcomes* in this regard all national, regional and international efforts, including by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, that aimed at supporting the efforts of the Governments of the affected countries to stem the spread of the outbreak and addressing its impacts, including through the deployment of health workers and the provision of laboratories and medical equipment;

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations system to mobilize and coordinate international support to address the Ebola outbreak, including through the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, the first-ever United Nations health emergency mission;

11. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

12. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the Declaration on Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, held at Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014;

13. *Takes note* of the declaration of the high-level meeting of African and international leaders, entitled "Toward African renaissance: renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme";

14. *Welcomes* the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, and further welcomes the African Union strategy and road map for facilitating the realization of the 2014 Malabo Commitments on Agriculture, launched during the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in January 2015;

15. *Expresses deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizes evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, is cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing

global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date;

16. *Expresses concern* about the negative consequences of the uneven global recovery, the increasing challenges posed by climate change, drought, land degradation, desertification, the loss of biodiversity and floods, and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could pose serious additional challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in Africa;

17. *Recognizes* that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stresses the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirms the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent;

18. *Expresses concern* at Africa's disproportionately low share in the volume of international trade, which stands at approximately 3 per cent, also expresses concern that official development assistance to Africa fell in 2013, and further expresses concern at the increased debt burden of some African countries;

19. *Notes* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving development objectives and inclusive economic growth, including through the promotion of job creation and poverty eradication, and that it contributes to the active participation of the African economies in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services;

20. *Also notes* the importance of promoting the formalization of informal sector activities in Africa;

21. *Calls upon* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights;

22. *Takes note* of the Ministerial Meeting on Social Development, Labour and Employment held in Addis Ababa on 23 April 2015;

23. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including inclusive industrial development, and policies which seek to enhance productive capacities in Africa can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

24. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes the steps taken in this regard, and emphasizes in this context the need to avoid further marginalization of the African continent;

I

Actions by African countries and organizations

25. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts towards achieving development goals, developing and strengthening institutions for governance, creating an environment conducive to involving the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the New Partnership implementation process, developing public-private partnerships for financing infrastructure projects and attracting foreign direct investment for development;

26. *Also welcomes* the collaboration between the African Private Sector Forum and the United Nations Global Compact, and encourages the strengthening of this partnership in conjunction with the African Union Commission in support of the development of the African private sector and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in line with the relevant executive decisions of the African Union;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts exerted by the African Union and the regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provision contained in General Assembly resolutions 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009, and stresses the key role of the United Nations system in supporting the African Union in the social, economic and political fields and in the area of peace and security;

28. *Recognizes* the important role that African regional economic communities can play in the implementation of the New Partnership and the African Union Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year action plan in close cooperation with the African Union, and in this regard encourages African countries and the international community to give regional economic communities the support necessary to strengthen their capacity;

29. *Welcomes* the decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its eighteenth ordinary session, held on 29 and 30 January 2012, to strengthen intra-African trade, which plays an important role in promoting economic growth and development, and calls upon the United Nations system and development partners to continue to support the efforts of African countries, the African Union and regional economic communities to enhance intra-African trade;

30. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the African leaders to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African renaissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

31. *Further welcomes* the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in January 2015, of the African Union Agenda 2063, as a strategic framework for

ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and reaffirms its full support for its implementation;

32. *Welcomes* in this regard the high-level panel discussion organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa during Africa Week 2014, with the participation of the African Union Commission, the Planning and Coordination Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the United Nations system, on the theme "The Africa we want: support of the United Nations system to the African Union's Agenda 2063", which aimed at popularizing the African Union Agenda 2063 in line with the deliberations during the twenty-second ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

33. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to align the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa[12] with the strategic frameworks of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development for 2014-2017 and the African Union Agenda 2063, and calls upon development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of necessary funds to support the implementation of its activities;

34. *Further welcomes* the commendable progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 35 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 17 countries, and welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, and in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process and to strengthen the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

35. *Welcomes* the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to proclaim 2015 "the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063", and expresses its appreciation for the continuing and increasing efforts of African countries in mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

36. *Encourages* African countries to accelerate the achievement of the objective of food security in Africa, welcomes the commitment made by African leaders to raise the share of agriculture and rural development in their budget expenditures and ensure better governance to effectively manage the resources allocated, and in this regard reaffirms its support for, inter alia, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, under the strong leadership of African countries, in accordance with the targets set by the New Partnership;

37. *Welcomes* the commendable progress made by the 41 African countries and the four regional economic communities that voluntarily adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and committed themselves to ensuring an annual rate of growth in agriculture of 6 per cent and to

[12] The nine clusters include: infrastructure development; environment, population and urbanization; social and human development; science and technology; advocacy and communications; governance; peace and security; agriculture, food security and rural development; and industry, trade and market access.

allocating at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to the agricultural sector, as appropriate, and noting with appreciation that, to date, 12 countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budget allocation target, while another 13 countries are currently spending between 5 and 10 per cent;

38. *Encourages* African countries to strengthen and expand local and regional infrastructure and to continue sharing best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the high-level subcommittee of the African Union on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, which seeks to further strengthen the development of infrastructure on the African continent in collaboration with relevant development partners;

39. *Also encourages* African countries to maintain the trend of increasing investment in infrastructure development, including through domestic resources, and improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure investment;

40. *Further encourages* African countries to continue their efforts in investing in education, science, technology and innovation to enhance value addition and industrial development;

II
Response of the international community

41. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

42. *Also welcomes* the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners, as well as other initiatives, emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation, and in this regard recognizes the important role that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can play in supporting Africa's development efforts, including in the implementation of the New Partnership, while bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation;

43. *Urges* continued support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment, and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

44. *Expresses deep concern* about the continuing negative effects of desertification, land degradation and drought on the African continent, and in this regard calls for the continued effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[13] including its 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),[14] to address the situation;

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[14] A/C.2/62/7, annex.

45. *Recognizes* that Africa, which contributes the least to climate change, is one of the regions most vulnerable and most exposed to its adverse impacts, and in this regard calls upon the international community, in particular developed countries, to continue to support Africa in its adaptation and sustainable development efforts through, inter alia, the transfer and deployment of technology, on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and predictable new resources, in line with existing commitments;

46. *Notes* the progress made at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, and looks forward to the timely implementation of the "Bali package", including the trade facilitation agreement, and calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations;

47. *Reiterates* the important role of trade as an engine of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in particular its contribution to boosting job creation, given high youth unemployment in Africa, and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizes the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, while recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize their flexibilities consistent with their commitments and obligations as members of the World Trade Organization;

48. *Also reiterates* the need for all countries and relevant multilateral institutions to continue efforts to enhance coherence in their trade policies towards African countries, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to fully integrate African countries into the international trading system and to build their capacity to compete through such initiatives as aid for trade and, given the world economic and financial crisis, the provision of assistance to address the adjustment challenges of trade liberalization;

49. *Calls for* a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, and recognizes the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt restructuring, as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis in developing countries;

50. *Welcomes* the efforts of some developed countries which are on target to meet the commitments made in terms of increased official development assistance;

51. *Expresses deep concern* at the fact that the commitment to double aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the Summit of the Group of Eight held at Gleneagles from 6 to 8 July 2005, was not entirely reached, and in this regard stresses the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil the Gleneagles and other donors' substantial commitments to increase aid through a variety of means;

52. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to

least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

53. *Considers* that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, and, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources of financing for development achieved to date, stresses the importance of scaling up present initiatives and developing new mechanisms, as appropriate;

54. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[15] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

55. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture and food security in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[16]

56. *Also recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners to align their efforts in infrastructure investment towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and welcomes in this regard the convening of the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure in Dakar on 14 and 15 June 2014, which adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action to mobilize investment towards infrastructure development projects, starting with 16 bankable projects identified from the priority action plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and calls upon development partners to support the implementation of the Dakar Agenda for Action;

57. *Invites* all of Africa's development partners, in particular developed countries, to support African countries in promoting and maintaining macroeconomic stability, to help African countries to attract investments and promote policies conducive to attracting domestic and foreign investment, for example by encouraging private financial flows, to promote investment by their private sectors in Africa, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of technology to African countries, on mutually agreed terms, and to assist in strengthening human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership,

[15] A/63/539, annex.

[16] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

consistent with its priorities and objectives and with a view to furthering Africa's development at all levels;

58. *Stresses* that the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and post-conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the New Partnership, and welcomes in this regard the cooperation and support granted by the United Nations and development partners to the African regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership;

59. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in assisting post-conflict countries in Africa, particularly the six African countries for which the Commission has established country-specific configurations;

60. *Urges* the international community to give due attention to Africa's priorities, including the New Partnership, in the formulation of the post 2015 development agenda;

61. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership and to place greater emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of the effectiveness of its activities in support of the New Partnership;

62. *Emphasizes* African ownership of the African Peer Review Mechanism process, and invites the international community to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, in implementing their respective national programmes of action arising from the process;

63. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the United Nations development system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives through, inter alia, the Millennium Villages Project, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report an assessment of those quick-impact initiatives;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa,[12] and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

65. *Welcomes* the establishment of a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made related to Africa's development, and invites Member States and all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, and all relevant international and regional organizations to contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of the review process by cooperating in the collection of data and the evaluation performance;

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the second biennial report on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development;

67. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session an item entitled "Report of the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development";

68. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the General Assembly on an annual basis on the implementation of the present resolution on the basis of inputs from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other stakeholders in the New Partnership.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 74 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea

Australia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Tonga and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution

Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in paragraph 162 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, to address, on an urgent basis, building on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group), the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),[1] before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly,

Noting its request to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to make recommendations on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention contained in paragraph 214 of General Assembly resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014,

Having considered the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group,[2]

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.
[2] A/69/780, annex, sect. I.

Please recycle

Welcoming the exchange of views on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention and the progress made within the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, within its mandate, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, and in the light of its resolution 67/78 of 11 December 2012, to prepare for the decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Stressing the need for the comprehensive global regime to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and having considered the feasibility of developing an international instrument under the Convention,

1. *Decides* to develop an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and to that end:

(a) To establish, prior to holding an intergovernmental conference, a preparatory committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, and that the preparatory committee will start its work in 2016 and, by the end of 2017, report to the Assembly on its progress;

(b) That the preparatory committee shall meet for no less than two sessions of 10 working days duration each in 2016 as well as in 2017 with full conference services, with the recognition that, with respect to documentation, any documents of the preparatory committee other than the agenda, the programme of work and the report of the preparatory committee shall be considered informal working documents;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to convene sessions of the preparatory committee in 2016 from 28 March to 8 April and from 29 August to 12 September;

(d) That the preparatory committee will be chaired by one presiding officer, who will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, as soon as possible;

(e) That the preparatory committee shall elect a bureau consisting of two members from each regional group, and that these ten members shall assist the Chair on procedural matters in the general conduct of his or her work;

(f) To request the President of the General Assembly to invite the regional groups to nominate candidates to the bureau as soon as possible;

(g) To recognize the desirability that any legally-binding instrument relating to marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction under the Convention would secure the widest possible acceptance, and for that reason;

(h) That the preparatory committee shall exhaust every effort to reach agreement on substantive matters by consensus;

(i) To recognize the importance of proceeding efficiently in the preparatory committee on the development of the elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention, and to recognize further that any elements where consensus is not attained, even after exhausting every effort, may also be included in the recommendations of the preparatory committee to the General Assembly;

(j) That, except as provided in subparagraph (i) above, the rules relating to the procedure and the established practice of the committees of the General Assembly shall apply to the procedure of the preparatory committee, and that, for the meetings of the preparatory committee, the participation rights of the international organization that is a party to the Convention shall be as in the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and that this provision shall constitute no precedent for all meetings to which General Assembly resolution 65/276 of 3 May 2011 is applicable;

(k) That, before the end of its seventy-second session, and taking into account the aforementioned report of the preparatory committee, it will decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention;

2. *Decides* that negotiations shall address the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;

3. *Recognizes* that the process indicated in paragraph 1 above should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies;

4. *Also recognizes* that neither participation in the negotiations nor their outcome may affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments, or the legal status of parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and the intergovernmental conference referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above, and invites Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the preparatory committee with the necessary assistance for the performance of its work, including secretariat services and the provision of essential background information and relevant documents, and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs.

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 69 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in response to the devastating effects of the earthquake in Nepal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and all other resolutions on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development, and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Expressing sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the victims, their families and the people of Nepal and neighbouring countries which suffered huge losses of life as a result of the earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April and its powerful aftershocks,

Deeply concerned by the extremely difficult condition of affected people requiring assistance, in particular the most vulnerable and those in hard-to-reach areas isolated from communication and transportation networks,

Please recycle

Mindful of the massive destruction caused to the people, community assets, natural resources, infrastructure, and tourism and service sectors of Nepal and other means of livelihood of its people, as well as the enormous damage caused to its ancient cultural heritage, including the World Heritage sites,

Conscious of the immediate humanitarian challenges and the long-term impact of the devastation on the socioeconomic development of Nepal, undermining the country's efforts in achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Underlining the special needs and challenges of Nepal as a least developed, landlocked developing country emerging from conflict, and recognizing the additional challenges and constraints facing the country in the aftermath of the earthquake,

Commending the efforts made by Nepal in rescue and relief operations, as well as the prompt and generous support through both in-kind and financial assistance extended in this regard by the international community, including the neighbouring and regional countries,

Stressing the importance of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, as reaffirmed in the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,

Emphasizing the importance of international relief in helping Nepal address the immediate needs of the affected population and the importance of continued international cooperation and coordination in supporting the efforts and nationally defined priorities of Nepal in dealing with prevention, preparedness, mitigation, recovery and reconstruction, as well as in the strengthening of response capacity at all levels,

1. *Expresses* its deepest condolences, solidarity and support to the Government and the people of Nepal and commends its resilience, and also expresses its condolences and sympathy to all affected Member States, in particular those that lost nationals in the catastrophe;

2. *Affirms* the leading role and the primary responsibility of the Government of Nepal, with adequate support and cooperation from the international community, in the humanitarian response and the rehabilitation, recovery, reconstruction and development plans for the country;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to urgently help survivors through immediate and needs-based relief assistance, underlining the importance of reaching affected people, particularly in remote areas, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, as well as the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, and considering the use of the most appropriate means;

4. *Welcomes* the launch of the United Nations flash appeal of 29 April 2015, and calls on the international community, including Member States, to provide support during the three-month period of the flash appeal and beyond;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of linking relief with rehabilitation and development from very early on, of building resilience and "building back better", of further strengthening national capacities at all levels, including effective and efficient governance and institutions, to prepare for and respond to future disasters of this kind, and of integrating a gender perspective, ensuring that women take an

active and equal role in all relevant aspects related to disaster management and rehabilitation;

6. *Underlines* the importance, in parallel to the relief effort, of rapidly initiating the reconstruction efforts and resuming development through Nepal's sustained efforts and assistance from the international community, including the international and regional financial institutions, in collaboration with the United Nations and Member States, and welcomes pledging initiatives in this regard, in coordination with the Government of Nepal, for the long-term reconstruction and rebuilding of the country;

7. *Also underlines* the need for the international community to maintain its focus on sustaining the support for the medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction priorities as defined and led by the Government of Nepal;

8. *Stresses* the need for restoration of the monuments and sites of historical, cultural and archaeological significance, and urges Member States to share their expertise and extend necessary cooperation to preserve the ancient cultural heritage of Nepal, including its World Heritage sites;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to continue to assist Nepal in ensuring effective coordination of the national and international relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and through international follow-up initiatives, as appropriate.

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Agenda item 69 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in response to the devastating effects of the earthquake in Nepal

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 19 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/209 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to convene, in early 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as its resolutions 68/211 of 20 December 2013 and 69/219 of 19 December 2014 and its decision 69/556 of 5 March 2015,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Japan for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 14 to 18 March 2015 and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted by the Conference, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

Annex I
Sendai Declaration

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, ministers and delegates participating in the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, have gathered from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai City of Miyagi Prefecture in Japan, which has demonstrated a vibrant recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. Recognizing the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity in many parts of the world, we declare our determination to enhance our efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce losses of lives and assets from disasters worldwide.

2. We value the important role played by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters during the past 10 years. Having completed the assessment and review of and considered the experience gained under its implementation, we hereby adopt the Sendai

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Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the new framework as the guide to enhance our efforts for the future.

3. We call all stakeholders to action, aware that the realization of the new framework depends on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to make the world safer from the risk of disasters in the decades to come for the benefit of the present and future generations.

4. We thank the people and the Government of Japan as well as the City of Sendai for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and extend our appreciation to Japan for its commitment to advancing disaster risk reduction in the global development agenda.

Annex II
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

I. Preamble

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan, which represented a unique opportunity for countries to:

(a) Adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(b) Complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;[1]

(c) Consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations, as well as relevant regional agreements for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(d) Identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(e) Determine modalities for the periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. During the World Conference, States also reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience[2] to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and

[1] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[2] Resilience is defined as: "The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions", United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction", Geneva, May 2009 (http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology).

the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.

Hyogo Framework for Action: lessons learned, gaps identified and future challenges

3. Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, as documented in national and regional progress reports on its implementation as well as in other global reports, progress has been achieved in reducing disaster risk at local, national, regional and global levels by countries and other relevant stakeholders, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards.[3] Reducing disaster risk is a cost-effective investment in preventing future losses. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. Countries have enhanced their capacities in disaster risk management. International mechanisms for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as other relevant international and regional forums for cooperation, have been instrumental in the development of policies and strategies and the advancement of knowledge and mutual learning. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been an important instrument for raising public and institutional awareness, generating political commitment and focusing and catalysing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels.

4. Over the same 10-year time frame, however, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll, and as a result the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries as a whole have been affected. Over 700 thousand people have lost their lives, over 1.4 million have been injured and approximately 23 million made homeless as a result of disasters. Overall, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. The total economic loss was more than $1.3 trillion. In addition, between 2008 and 2012, 144 million people were displaced by disasters. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability[4] has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster-related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels. Recurring small-scale disasters and slow-onset disasters particularly affect communities, households and small and medium-sized enterprises, constituting a high percentage of all losses. All countries — especially developing countries, where the mortality and economic losses from disasters are disproportionately higher — are faced with increasing

[3] Hazard is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards).

[4] Vulnerability is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards".

levels of possible hidden costs and challenges in order to meet financial and other obligations.

5. It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.

6. Enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics and epidemics. Moreover, it is necessary to continue strengthening good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels and improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and to use post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to "Build Back Better", supported by strengthened modalities of international cooperation.

7. There has to be a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices.

8. International, regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. Existing mechanisms may require strengthening in order to provide effective support and achieve better implementation. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, need special attention and support to augment domestic resources and capabilities through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to ensure adequate, sustainable, and timely means of implementation in capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with international commitments.

9. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing the underlying disaster risk

factors, in the formulation of goals and priorities for action,[5] in the need to foster disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. The gaps indicate a need to develop an action-oriented framework that Governments and relevant stakeholders can implement in a supportive and complementary manner, and which helps to identify disaster risks to be managed and guides investment to improve resilience.

10. Ten years after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, disasters continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

11. The intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates. Ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty.

12. It is recalled that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, "The future we want",[6] called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to be integrated at all levels. The Conference also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.[7]

13. Addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8] represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes.

14. Against this background, and in order to reduce disaster risk, there is a need to address existing challenges and prepare for future ones by focusing on: monitoring, assessing and understanding disaster risk and sharing such information and how it is created; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in the economic, social, health, cultural and educational resilience of persons, communities and countries and the environment, as well as through technology and research; enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and

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[5] The Hyogo Framework priorities for action 2005-2015 are: (1) ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) reduce the underlying risk factors; and (5) strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

[6] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[8] The climate change issues mentioned in this Framework remain within the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the competences of the Parties to the Convention.

reconstruction. To complement national action and capacity, there is a need to enhance international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations.

15. This Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

II. Expected outcome and goal

16. While some progress in building resilience and reducing losses and damages has been achieved, a substantial reduction of disaster risk requires perseverance and persistence, with a more explicit focus on people and their health and livelihoods, and regular follow-up. Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, this Framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years:

> The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

The realization of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country at all levels in the implementation and follow-up of this Framework and in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment.

17. To attain the expected outcome, the following goal must be pursued:

> Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

The pursuance of this goal requires the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation for the provision of means of implementation in accordance with their national priorities.

18. To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of this Framework, seven global targets have been agreed. These targets will be measured at the global level and will be complemented by work to develop appropriate indicators. National targets and indicators will contribute to the achievement of the outcome and goal of this Framework. The seven global targets are:

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;[9]

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030;

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

III. Guiding principles

19. Drawing from the principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[10] and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the implementation of this Framework will be guided by the following principles, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

(a) Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. The reduction of disaster risk is a common concern for all States and the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

(b) Disaster risk reduction requires that responsibilities be shared by central Governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders, as appropriate to their national circumstances and systems of governance;

(c) Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;

(d) Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age,

[9] Categories of affected people will be elaborated in the process for post-Sendai work decided by the Conference.

[10] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

(e) Disaster risk reduction and management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels, and it requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including business and academia, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up;

(f) While the enabling, guiding and coordinating role of national and federal State Governments remain essential, it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate;

(g) Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;

(h) The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development;

(i) While the drivers of disaster risk may be local, national, regional or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics that must be understood for the determination of measures to reduce disaster risk;

(j) Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development;

(k) In the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase it is critical to prevent the creation of and to reduce disaster risk by "Building Back Better" and increasing public education and awareness of disaster risk;

(l) An effective and meaningful global partnership and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;

(m) Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges, need adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support, including through finance, technology transfer and capacity-building from developed countries and partners tailored to their needs and priorities, as identified by them.

IV. Priorities for action

20. Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and in pursuance of the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

21. In their approach to disaster risk reduction, States, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders should take into consideration the key activities listed under each of these four priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, taking into consideration respective capacities and capabilities, in line with national laws and regulations.

22. In the context of increasing global interdependence, concerted international cooperation, an enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, in particular for developing countries.

Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk

23. Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

National and local levels

24. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information. Ensure its dissemination, taking into account the needs of different categories of users, as appropriate;

(b) Encourage the use of and strengthening of baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances;

(c) Develop, periodically update and disseminate, as appropriate, location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, to decision makers, the general public and communities at risk of exposure to disaster in an appropriate format by using, as applicable, geospatial information technology;

(d) Systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and

cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information;

(e) Make non-sensitive hazard exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster and loss-disaggregated information freely available and accessible, as appropriate;

(f) Promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;

(g) Build the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices and training and education on disaster risk reduction, including the use of existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning;

(h) Promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management;

(i) Ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;

(j) Strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards;

(k) Promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies and social, economic, educational and environmental challenges and disaster risks;

(l) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

(m) Promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;

(n) Apply risk information in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities, countries and assets, as well as hazard characteristics, to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies;

(o) Enhance collaboration among people at the local level to disseminate disaster risk information through the involvement of community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Global and regional levels

25. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems;

(b) Promote the conduct of comprehensive surveys on multi-hazard disaster risks and the development of regional disaster risk assessments and maps, including climate change scenarios;

(c) Promote and enhance, through international cooperation, including technology transfer, access to and the sharing and use of non-sensitive data and information, as appropriate, communications and geospatial and space-based technologies and related services; maintain and strengthen in situ and remotely-sensed earth and climate observations; and strengthen the utilization of media, including social media, traditional media, big data and mobile phone networks, to support national measures for successful disaster risk communication, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws;

(d) Promote common efforts in partnership with the scientific and technological community, academia and the private sector to establish, disseminate and share good practices internationally;

(e) Support the development of local, national, regional and global user-friendly systems and services for the exchange of information on good practices, cost-effective and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies and lessons learned on policies, plans and measures for disaster risk reduction;

(f) Develop effective global and regional campaigns as instruments for public awareness and education, building on the existing ones (for example, the "One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals" initiative, the "Making Cities Resilient: my city is getting ready!" campaign, the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction and the annual United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction), to promote a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible citizenship, generate understanding of disaster risk, support mutual learning and share experiences; and encourage public and private stakeholders to actively engage in such initiatives and to develop new ones at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(g) Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and in all regions, with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, in order to: strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of this Framework; promote scientific research on disaster risk patterns, causes and effects; disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology; provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data; identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making; contribute to the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction"; use post-

disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies;

(h) Encourage the availability of copyrighted and patented materials, including through negotiated concessions, as appropriate;

(i) Enhance access to and support for innovation and technology, as well as in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research and development in the field of disaster risk management.

Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

26. Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

National and local levels

27. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in: (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; (ii) promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses; (iii) enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and (iv) putting in place coordination and organizational structures;

(b) Adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience;

(c) Carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;

(d) Encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;

(e) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans.

Promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

(f) Assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal frameworks and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;

(g) Establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is necessary for such mechanisms to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of non-sensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multisectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures;

(h) Empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;

(i) Encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;

(j) Promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the United Nations;

(k) Formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster-risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

Global and regional levels

28. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of this Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks;

(b) Foster collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant

to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate;

(c) Actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors. Regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

(d) Promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk;

(e) Promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information through, inter alia, voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among interested States;

(f) Promote the strengthening of, as appropriate, international voluntary mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of disaster risks, including relevant data and information, benefiting from the experience of the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor. Such mechanisms may promote the exchange of non-sensitive information on disaster risks to the relevant national Government bodies and stakeholders in the interest of sustainable social and economic development.

Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

29. Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

National and local levels

30. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors;

(b) Promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;

(c) Strengthen, as appropriate, disaster resilient public and private investments, particularly through: structural, non-structural and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities, in particular schools and

hospitals and physical infrastructures; building better from the start to withstand hazards through proper design and construction, including the use of the principles of universal design and the standardization of building materials; retrofitting and rebuilding; nurturing a culture of maintenance; and taking into account economic, social, structural, technological and environmental impact assessments;

(d) Protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;

(e) Promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;

(f) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;

(g) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help reduce risks;

(h) Encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;

(i) Enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work; promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine; and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization;

(j) Strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;

(k) People with life threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;

(l) Encourage the adoption of policies and programmes addressing disaster-induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of host communities, in accordance with national laws and circumstances;

(m) Promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

(n) Strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

(o) Increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices;

(p) Strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(q) Promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.

Global and regional levels

31. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Promote coherence across systems, sectors and organizations related to sustainable development and to disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and processes;

(b) Promote the development and strengthening of disaster risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments in close cooperation with partners in the international community, business, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

(c) Promote cooperation between academic, scientific and research entities and networks and the private sector to develop new products and services to help reduce disaster risk, in particular those that would assist developing countries and their specific challenges;

(d) Encourage the coordination between global and regional financial institutions with a view to assessing and anticipating the potential economic and social impacts of disasters;

(e) Enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the building of resilient health systems;

(f) Strengthen and promote collaboration and capacity-building for the protection of productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(g) Promote and support the development of social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes in order to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels;

(h) Strengthen and broaden international efforts aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty through disaster risk reduction;

(i) Promote and support collaboration among relevant public and private stakeholders to enhance the resilience of business to disasters.

Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

32. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches are key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to "Build Back Better", including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

National and local levels

33. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes with the involvement of the relevant institutions, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and facilitating, as appropriate, the participation of all sectors and relevant stakeholders;

(b) Invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems. Develop such systems through a participatory process. Tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender. Promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;

(c) Promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide live-saving and essential services;

(d) Establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;

(e) Adopt public policies and actions that support the role of public service workers to establish or strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures for relief assistance and plan and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;

(f) Train the existing workforce and voluntary workers in disaster response and strengthen technical and logistical capacities to ensure better response in emergencies;

(g) Ensure the continuity of operations and planning, including social and economic recovery, and the provision of basic services in the post-disaster phase;

(h) Promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs;

(i) Promote the cooperation of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction, under the coordination of national authorities;

(j) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;

(k) Develop guidance for preparedness for disaster reconstruction, such as on land use planning and structural standards improvement, including by learning from the recovery and reconstruction programmes over the decade since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and lessons learned;

(l) Consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;

(m) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;

(n) Establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;

(o) Enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

(p) Review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance.

Global and regional levels

34. To achieve this, it is important to:

(a) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities;

(b) Promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other guidance instruments, to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response and facilitate information sharing on lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction programmes;

(c) Promote the further development of and investment in effective, nationally-compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services, and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information across all countries;

(d) Enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders;

(e) Support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on hydrometeorological issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society, and advance strategies for disaster risk reduction upon the request of States;

(f) Support regional cooperation to deal with disaster preparedness, including through common exercises and drills;

(g) Promote regional protocols to facilitate the sharing of response capacities and resources during and after disasters;

(h) Train the existing workforce and volunteers in disaster response.

V. Role of stakeholders

35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of this Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders:

(a) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to: participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public

awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. On this point, it should be noted that:

(i) Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

(ii) Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;

(iii) Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design;

(iv) Older persons have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(vi) Migrants contribute to the resilience of communities and societies and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction;

(b) Academia, scientific and research entities and networks to: focus on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making;

(c) Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to: integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management;

(d) Media to: take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent,

easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

37. With reference to the General Assembly resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, commitments by relevant stakeholders are important in order to identify modalities of cooperation and to implement this Framework. Those commitments should be specific and time-bound in order to support the development of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels and the implementation of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. All stakeholders are encouraged to publicize their commitments and their fulfilment in support of the implementation of this Framework, or of the national and local disaster risk management plans, through the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

VI. International cooperation and global partnership

General considerations

38. Given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement this Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk.

39. International cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk.

40. In addressing economic disparity and disparity in technological innovation and research capacity among countries, it is crucial to enhance technology transfer, involving a process of enabling and facilitating flows of skill, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology from developed to developing countries in the implementation of this Framework.

41. Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnerships at the regional and international levels in order to support developing countries to implement this Framework, in accordance with their national priorities and needs. Similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines.

42. Disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States, owing to their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The effects of disasters, some of which

have increased in intensity and have been exacerbated by climate change, impede their progress towards sustainable development. Given the special case of small island developing States, there is a critical need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the outcome of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[11] in the area of disaster risk reduction.

43. African countries continue to face challenges related to disasters and increasing risks, including those related to enhancing resilience of infrastructure, health and livelihoods. These challenges require increased international cooperation and the provision of adequate support to African countries to allow for the implementation of this Framework.

44. North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, has proven to be key to reducing disaster risk and there is a need to further strengthen cooperation in both areas. Partnerships play an additional important role by harnessing the full potential of countries and supporting their national capacities in disaster risk management and in improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries.

45. Efforts by developing countries offering South-South and triangular cooperation should not reduce North-South cooperation from developed countries as they complement North-South cooperation.

46. Financing from a variety of international sources, public and private transfer of reliable, affordable, appropriate and modern environmentally sound technology, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, capacity-building assistance for developing countries and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of reducing disaster risk.

Means of implementation

47. To achieve this, it is necessary to:

(a) Reaffirm that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained, and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, in particular for the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities;

(b) Enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information-sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

(c) Promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation

[11] General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction;

(d) Incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change.

Support from international organizations

48. To support the implementation of this Framework, the following is necessary:

(a) The United Nations and other international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies engaged in disaster risk reduction are requested, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies in this regard;

(b) The entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes, to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of this Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks, such as the International Health Regulations (2005), including through the development and the strengthening of capacities and clear and focused programmes that support the priorities of States in a balanced, well-coordinated and sustainable manner, within their respective mandates;

(c) The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in particular, is requested to support the implementation, follow-up and review of this Framework by: preparing periodic reviews on progress, in particular for the Global Platform, and, as appropriate, in a timely manner, along with the follow-up process at the United Nations, supporting the development of coherent global and regional follow-up and indicators, and in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change, and updating the existing web-based Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor accordingly; participating actively in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators; generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation in close collaboration with States and through the mobilization of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations; supporting countries, including through national platforms or their equivalent, in their development of national plans and monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impacts; convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional organizations; leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; facilitating the enhancement of, and continuing to service, the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in mobilizing science and technical work on disaster risk reduction; leading, in close

coordination with States, the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction", in line with the terminology agreed upon by States; and maintaining the stakeholders' commitment registry;

(d) International financial institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to consider the priorities of this Framework for providing financial support and loans for integrated disaster risk reduction to developing countries;

(e) Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of this Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks;

(f) The United Nations Global Compact, as the main United Nations initiative for engagement with the private sector and business, to further engage with and promote the critical importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development and resilience;

(g) The overall capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries in disaster risk reduction to be strengthened by providing adequate resources through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and by enhancing the role of the Fund in relation to the implementation of this Framework;

(h) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and other relevant regional bodies and mechanisms for parliamentarians, as appropriate, to continue supporting and advocating disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of national legal frameworks;

(i) The United Cities and Local Governments organization and other relevant bodies of local governments to continue supporting cooperation and mutual learning among local governments for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of this Framework.

Follow-up actions

49. The Conference invites the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, to consider the possibility of including the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as part of its integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor system.

50. The Conference recommends to the General Assembly the establishment, at its sixty-ninth session, of an open-ended intergovernmental working group, comprising experts nominated by Member States, and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the

development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of this Framework in conjunction with the work of the inter-agency expert group on sustainable development indicators. The Conference also recommends that the working group consider the recommendations of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction" by December 2016, and that the outcome of its work be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 19 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

Recalling also that the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates, and that ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty,

Noting the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016 and its possible contributions to disaster risk reduction,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group comprising experts nominated by States and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, coherent with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

2. *Also decides* that the working group shall consider, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on the update of the publication "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction";

Please recycle

3. *Affirms* that the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group shall be guided by the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* that the work of the working group shall be completed by December 2016 and its report submitted to the General Assembly for consideration;

5. *Also decides* that the working group shall:

(a) Hold three formal sessions, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including one session in 2015 and two sessions in 2016, each session lasting two days, and additional informal sessions as needed;

(b) Decide on its calendar and programme of work by consensus at its first meeting;

(c) Develop its outcome through consensus;

6. *Decides* that physical participation at meetings will be self-funded, with support provided to developing countries through voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction trust fund, and in this regard urges international and bilateral donors, as well as donors in the private sector, financial institutions and foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the working group, with priority given to the least developed countries and small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses;

7. *Encourages* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to make contributions, as appropriate, to the work of the working group;

8. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as appropriate, among intergovernmental processes, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes in order to build synergies.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 33
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Georgia: draft resolution

Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including its resolutions 62/153 of 18 December 2007, 62/249 of 15 May 2008, 63/307 of 9 September 2009, 64/162 of 18 December 2009, 64/296 of 7 September 2010, 65/287 of 29 June 2011, 66/165 of 19 December 2011, 66/283 of 3 July 2012, 67/268 of 13 June 2013, 68/180 of 18 December 2013 and 68/274 of 5 June 2014,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions on Georgia relating to the need for all parties to work towards a comprehensive peace and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, and stressing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[1] as the key international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons,

Concerned by forced demographic changes resulting from the conflicts in Georgia,

Concerned also by the humanitarian situation caused by armed conflict in August 2008, which resulted in the further forced displacement of civilians,

Mindful of the urgent need to find a solution to the problems related to forced displacement in Georgia,

Underlining the importance of the discussions that commenced in Geneva on 15 October 2008 and of continuing to address the issue of the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of internally displaced persons and refugees on the basis of internationally recognized principles and conflict-settlement practices,

[1] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Please recycle

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 68/274,[2]

1. *Recognizes* the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, to their homes throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

2. *Stresses* the need to respect the property rights of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia and to refrain from obtaining property in violation of those rights;

3. *Reaffirms* the unacceptability of forced demographic changes;

4. *Underlines* the urgent need for unimpeded access for humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in all conflict-affected areas throughout Georgia;

5. *Calls upon* all participants in the Geneva discussions to intensify their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures and to take immediate steps to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin;

6. *Underlines* the need for the development of a timetable to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia to their homes;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

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[2] A/69/909.

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 32
Prevention of armed conflict

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uruguay: draft resolution

Permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/80 A of 12 December 1995,

Reaffirming the sovereign right of every State to determine independently its foreign policy in accordance with the norms and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan contributes to the strengthening of peace and security in the region, and the active and positive role that Turkmenistan plays in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the region and other States of the world,

Welcoming the initiatives of neutral Turkmenistan directed at further strengthening economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region,

Underlining the contribution of neutral Turkmenistan in the United Nations-led inter-Tajik talks, through the initiative to host the continual round of the inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat in 1995 and 1996, and in addressing conflict in Afghanistan by hosting inter-Afghan talks and an international forum on Afghanistan in 1997 and continuing to offer the territory of Turkmenistan for further inclusive, Afghan-led dialogue on reconciliation,

Recognizing that the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, established in Ashgabat in December 2007 at the initiative of all Central Asian States and with the support of the international community, plays an important role in assisting the Central Asian States in addressing regional challenges by encouraging and facilitating closer cooperation among them, identifying and tackling potential sources of tension before possible

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escalation, and responding to domestic and transnational challenges and threats to peace and security by supporting the sustainable development of the region,

Recognizing also the positive role that neutral Turkmenistan plays in the provision and delivery of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters in the region, in accordance with the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system,[1] including the principle of neutrality,

Underlining the importance of the economic and geo-economic aspects of the neutrality of Turkmenistan for regional interconnectivity, which is conducive to regional development, and, in this regard, welcoming the initiatives of Turkmenistan on the stable transit of energy and the development of reliable transport and transit corridors,[2]

Noting the support of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the status of permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan expressed in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries,[3] held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 1995,

1. *Reiterates* its support for the status of permanent neutrality declared by Turkmenistan;

2. *Calls once again upon* States Members of the United Nations to respect and support this status of Turkmenistan and to respect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of Turkmenistan to declare 2015 the Year of Neutrality and Peace and to host an international conference on the theme "Policy of neutrality: international cooperation for peace, security and development" in December 2015.

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[1] Resolution 46/182, annex.

[2] See resolutions 67/263 and 69/213.

[3] A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III.

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Culture of peace

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen: draft resolution

Saving the cultural heritage of Iraq

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/180 of 19 December 2011 and 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking, 67/80 of 12 December 2012 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, 69/196 of 18 December 2014 on the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, and 69/197 of 18 December 2014 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, as well as the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and its biennial reviews,[1]

* Reissued for technical reasons on 27 May 2015.

[1] Resolutions 60/288, 62/272, 64/297, 66/282 and 68/276.

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Recalling also the Regulations Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land annexed to the Hague Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[2] the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its first and second Protocols,[3] the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,[4] the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage[5], the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects,[6] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[7] the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,[8] the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[9] other relevant international legal instruments and customary international law,

Recalling further all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1483 (2003) of 22 May 2003, 2161 (2014) of 17 June 2014, 2170 (2014) of 15 August 2014, 2178 (2014) of 24 September 2014, 2195 (2014) of 19 December 2014 and 2199 (2015) of 12 February 2015,

Mindful of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[10] the Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[11] Executive Board decision 196 EX/29 of 21 April 2015 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which contains several sites in Iraq, including Hatra, as well as the Doha Declaration adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held from 12 to 19 April 2015,

Appalled by the destruction and looting carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Da'esh, of the cultural heritage of Iraq, cradle of the Mesopotamian civilization, found in its museums, libraries, archives and archaeological sites, places of worship, including mosques, shrines and churches, and of religious and cultural artefacts, which are irreparable losses for Iraq and for humanity as a whole,

Alarmed by the increasing number of intentional attacks against and threats to the cultural heritage of countries affected by armed conflict as well as the organized looting and trafficking in cultural objects, which occurs on an unprecedented scale today,

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[3] Ibid., vols. 249 and 2253, No. 3511.

[4] Ibid., vol. 823, No. 11806.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1037, No. 15511.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2421, No. 43718.

[7] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2368, No. 42671.

[9] Ibid., vol. 2440, No. 43977.

[10] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[11] Ibid., *Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September-17 October 2003*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 33, annex.

Deeply concerned about such acts generating income for terrorist groups, which can support their recruitment efforts and strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks,

Recognizing the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner,

Affirming that the destruction of cultural heritage, which is representative of the diversity of human culture, erases the collective memories of a nation, destabilizes communities and threatens their cultural identity, and emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity and pluralism as well as freedom of religion and belief for achieving peace, stability, reconciliation and social cohesion,

Underlining, therefore, the necessity to take measures to safeguard and protect the tangible and intangible heritage of communities against the effects of armed conflict at all times,

Resolved to stand up against attacks on the cultural heritage of any country as attacks on the common heritage of humanity as a whole,

1. *Condemns* the barbaric acts of destruction and looting of the cultural heritage of Iraq carried out by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and deplores the rising incidence of intentional attacks against and threats to the cultural heritage of countries affected by armed conflict as well as damage to cultural property resulting from indiscriminate attacks and the organized looting and trafficking of cultural objects;

2. *Expresses outrage* that attacks on cultural heritage are used as a tactic of war in order to spread terror and hatred, fan conflict and impose violent extremist ideologies;

3. *Calls for* an immediate halt to the wanton destruction of the cultural heritage of Iraq, including religious sites or objects, emphasizes that no such acts committed by ISIL or other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida will be tolerated, and also calls for the preservation of the cultural heritage of Iraq by protecting cultural and religious properties and sites consistent with international humanitarian law;

4. *Recalls* that, under the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,[12] all parties to an armed conflict shall refrain from committing any act of hostility directed against cultural property, that the use of cultural property, its immediate surroundings or the appliances in use for its protection, for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflicts, is prohibited and may be waived only in cases where military necessity imperatively requires such a waiver, and that all parties to an armed conflict shall prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of, and any acts of vandalism directed against, cultural property;

5. *Affirms* that attacks intentionally directed against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historic monuments, may amount to war crimes;

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511.

6. *Stresses* the importance of holding accountable perpetrators of attacks intentionally directed against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, or historic monuments, provided they are not military objectives, and of other violations of international legal instruments on the protection of cultural heritage, and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to this end within their jurisdiction in accordance with applicable international law;

7. *Affirms* its support for the Government of Iraq in protecting the heritage of Iraq, an inseparable and permanent part of its national identity, and safeguarding its rich cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, which has an important role to play in its efforts of national reconciliation and reconstruction;

8. *Calls upon* community leaders to stand up and reaffirm unambiguously that there is no justification for the destruction of humanity's cultural heritage, and appeals also to cultural institutions, museums, archives, libraries, journalists and scientists to explain the necessity of safeguarding and protecting this heritage and, in this regard, welcomes the launch of the sensitization campaign "Unite 4 Heritage" by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

9. *Calls upon* all States to assist the Iraqi authorities in fighting against trafficking in cultural property illegally excavated from archaeological sites and taken from museums, libraries, archives and manuscript collections, as required under Security Council resolutions 1483 (2003) and 2199 (2015), including through international cooperation regarding the restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural property, as appropriate, as well as in criminal justice matters and in meeting the challenge of repairing, restoring and conserving damaged or destroyed cultural heritage when security conditions allow;

10. *Expresses concern* that ISIL and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating income from engaging directly or indirectly in the looting and trafficking of Iraqi cultural heritage items, which is being used to support their recruitment efforts and strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks;

11. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the adoption of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), which aims to counter terrorism financing, in particular the decision in paragraph 17 that all Member States shall take appropriate steps to prevent the trade in Iraqi cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific and religious importance illegally removed from Iraq since 6 August 1990, which complements a similar provision for Iraq in place since 2003 contained in paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), calls for full and timely implementation by all Member States of this decision, recalls the obligation of all States to provide the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) with information pertaining to violations of the sanctions regime as well as to provide all other necessary assistance to the Committee, calls on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other international organizations, as appropriate, to assist all Member States in its implementation, as requested in paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), and welcomes the actions already undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard;

12. *Urges* all States to take appropriate measures to ensure that all actors involved in the trade in cultural property, including, but not limited to, auction houses, art dealers, art collectors and museum professionals, are required to provide verifiable documentation of provenance as well as export certificates related to any cultural property imported, exported or offered for sale, including through the Internet;

13. *Encourages* States that are not already parties to consider ratifying or acceding to relevant legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

14. *Invites* all States, intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other stakeholders to support existing national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and the return of cultural property, and especially to identify and close any gaps in the national regulations against trafficking in cultural property;

15. *Calls for* the urgent implementation and strengthening of the Emergency Response Action Plan on Iraq adopted in July 2014, which provides for close monitoring of the conservation status of Iraqi heritage, training of professional curators and support for staff in place, including by taking emergency measures for the transfer of any cultural property at risk, in particular from museums, libraries, archives and manuscript collections;

16. *Calls for* intensified efforts by States to protect, preserve, inventory and document items of cultural heritage endangered by armed conflicts, including through close cooperation and exchange among museums, libraries, archives and manuscript collections or other institutions or persons dealing with cultural heritage.